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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/588,008	06/06/2000	Sam Yang	M4065.0210/P210	9015
24998	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP			TRINH, HOA B	
2101 L STREET NW			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526			PAPER NUMBER	
			2814	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/588,008

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Examiner

Vikki H Trinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 and 99 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31, 99 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

It is well settled that the law of anticipation does not require that the reference teach what appellant is teaching or has disclosed, but only that the claims on appeal "read on" something disclosed in the reference, i.e., all limitations of the claims are found in the reference. See *Kalman v. Kimberly Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1083). Moreover, it is not necessary for the applied reference to expressly disclose or describe a particular element or limitation of a rejected claim word for word as in the rejected claim so long as the reference inherently discloses that element or limitation. See, for example, *Standard Havens Products Inc. v. Gencor Industries Inc.*, 953 F.2d 1360, 21 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

2. Claims 1-31 and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Narwankar et al. (6,475,854)

Narwankar et al. (6,475,854) discloses memory cell capacitor structure 650 in a semiconductor device including:

As to claims 1, 23, and 99, a memory device having a bottom conducting layer 605, a dielectric layer 606 over the bottom conducting layer, a top conducting layer 608 and annealing the entire top conducting layer 608 comprising an oxygen permeable material (col. See Table 1

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and figure 6e, col. 1, lines 60-65), which results in an oxidized gas annealed top layer 610. This oxidized gas annealed layer 610 has an upper most portion. See also, Table 1, col. 11, lines 4-50 and col. 10, lines 15-40.

As to claims 2-3, 15, wherein the bottom conducting layer 605 is formed of a metal material layer selected from a “noble” metal group, i.e. Pt. See col. 10 lines 20-41.

As to claim 4, the bottom layer 605 is formed from a noble metal/metal alloy such as Ru, Pt, Ru, TiN, Ta₂O₅. (Table 1)

As to claims 5-8 and 17-28, wherein the bottom conducting layer 605 is formed of a conducting metal oxide, metal nitride (i.e., Pt (noble metal), Titanium nitride, PtRh, silicide). (See table 1).

As to claim 9, the bottom layer is on top of the oxygen barrier 606. (see figure 6e, col. 10, lines 31-35).

As to claim 10, the dielectric layer 606 is a dielectric metal oxide layer. (see column 10, lines 24-35).

As to claims 11-14, the dielectric layer is a dielectric metal oxide layer with high dielectric constant that falls between 7-300, i.e. BST or SBT. See col. 10, lines 24-35.

As to claim 16, the top conducting layer 615 may be formed of a non-oxidizing metal permeable to oxygen. See col. 11, lines 39-50, and Table 1.

As to claims 24-25, the oxygen annealed layer 615 is one annealed in the presence of oxygen and/or oxygen mixture (see Table 1).

As to claim 26, the annealed top layer 615 is a remote plasma enhanced annealed top layer (See table I, col. 13).

As to claim 27, the annealed top layer is a plasma enhanced annealed top layer (See table I, col. 13).

As to claim 28, the annealed top layer is an ultraviolet light annealed top layer (See table I, col. 13, fig. 9b).

As to claim 29, the capacitor is a stacked capacitor. See column 1, line 27).

As to claim 30, an access transistor connected to the capacitor. See col. 1, lines 23-30.

As to claim 31, the capacitor is a DRAM cell. (See column 1, line 21).

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's argument filed on June 10, 2004, has been considered. However, applicant's argument is not persuasive, because Narwankar teaches every elements of the present claims. Applicant alleged that the Narwankar does not teach the newly amended claims which include "an uppermost portion of the top conducting layer". On the contrary the examiner notes that the top conducting layer 608 has an upper most portion and a lower most portion with respect to its central plane. Furthermore, the top conducting layer is "the top layer" relative to the dielectric layer in the device. Whether Narwankar discloses in the disclosure to include other alternative designs with multiple layers on top of the dielectric layer is not to be taken as a whole so that

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Narwankar's invention can be set aside. As stated, the term "top" is a relative term. Thus, the top layer 608 is "the top" relative to the dielectric layer 606.

2. Accordingly, once the top conducting layer 608 undergoes an oxygen annealing process, the top conducting layer 608 results in an oxidized gas annealed top layer 610. Therefore, Narwankar's invention meets every limitation of the present claims.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Vikki Trinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1719. The Examiner can normally be reached from Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

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Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Wael Fahmy, can be reached at (571) 272-1705. The office fax number is 703-872-9306.

Any request for information regarding to the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Also, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public Pair. In addition, status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspro.gov>. If you have questions pertaining to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will cease to be mailed to applicants with Office actions as of June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy. Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.

Vikki Trinh,
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LONG PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER